

Distribution Plan *for the*
Backhaul Alaska Pilot Program 2 Regional Coordinating Entities
January 27, 2020

Applicability: This Plan covers only Regional Coordinator hosting entities. A separate distribution plan is provided for Pilot Program Villages.

Background: Rural Alaska communities lack facilities or landfills for disposal or storage of hazardous waste, but “backhaul” of these materials to appropriate destinations presents multiple economy-scale-challenges for these small and remote populations. Backhaul Alaska is a statewide coordinated system for rural community hazardous waste management being developed to specifically address these challenges. It facilitates and streamlines transportation and brokering, as well as ensures village capacity for safe and compliant staging and packaging.

In addition to statewide coordination, regionally-located coordination is central to the Backhaul Alaska operating framework. The “Regional Coordinators” provide local assistance and communicate directly with participating villages. Regional Coordinators, hosted by regional entities (“Regional Entities”), are located in each primary transportation & sociocultural region of the state. Regional coordination facilitates better communication, locally-specific technical assistance, rural capacity building, and lower travel costs for on-site work.

Real-world testing of the system is taking place through two pilot phases. The 9 Tribes enrolled in the first pilot (“Pilot 1”) used USEPA FY2019 Indian General Assistance Program (GAP) funds to help defray or cover Pilot Program participation costs, which include personnel, and miscellaneous expenses such as supplemental travel, supplies, and administration. Four Regional Entities relied partially on their FY2019 Indian General Assistance Program funds to help defray or leverage their ability to host a Regional Coordinator. The Pilot was completed successfully in November 2019.

Likewise, the 15 Tribes enrolled in the Backhaul Alaska Pilot 2 Program (the “Pilot 2 Villages”) had planned to use FY2020 GAP funds to defray or cover their participation costs, as had the majority of Regional Entities. However, this funding source was reduced by USEPA. The success of the Backhaul Alaska Pilot, which is critical to determining costs and many key parameters for the full Program, was left in jeopardy. The USEPA provided funding to the Denali Commission for the specific purpose or rectifying this situation and averting the withdrawal of participation by the Pilot 2 Villages and Regional Coordinator Hosting Entities.

Total Funding Available for Regional Coordinator Hosting Entities: \$35,000

Number of Entities: 7

Amount to be provided to each Regional Coordinator meeting distribution conditions: \$5,000.

Payment Plan: Lump sum on April 1, 2020.

Contingent upon: Satisfactory performance of Regional Coordinator duties listed in Table A-1, for the period of January 1, 2020 through March 31, 2020, and no reasonably foreseen obstacles to continuing satisfactory performance through 2020.

Justification: Regional coordination provides huge benefits to the program in terms of local buy-in, and village participation and backhaul success. It shifts much of the reporting and assistance burden to the regions, freeing up statewide coordinators to continue developing the program, working with the Control Tower, and analyzing data. Regional Entities have different resources than local communities. Some may choose to, or need to, address the unexpected GAP funds shortfall differently. Regional Entities typically serve regional villages with regional infrastructure and services – such as pickup and consolidation of village backhaul materials. In this light, Regional Entities may benefit from additional supplies or equipment. A lump sum is offered because these supplies may need to be ordered in time for a summer barge and the summer backhaul season. Providing a 3-month probationary period ensures that the Regional Entity can host the Regional Coordinator satisfactorily.

Remaining Funds: In the case that a Regional Entity lapses in their performance or withdraws from its obligations to Zender as a Regional Entity, Zender will develop a plan for the remaining funds allotted to that Village with the Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce. The plan will be submitted to the Denali Commission and EPA for approval.

Effective Date: The effective date begins January 1, 2020, with the funds distributed by direct deposit within five days of April 1, 2020.

Table A-1 Regional Coordinator Duties, Needs, and Potential Partner Roles

Component	What it Involves	Missing Pieces Prior to Implementation	Potential Entity Role(s)
Maintain the Village Tracking database	Entering information when received from the village via fax, email, scan, phone, etc. into a relational database. Upload changes and not writing over.	Database must be created.	Carriers and Villages responding as needed to clarify and data
For hub and spoke regions, potentially overseeing or helping to receive and repackage or consolidate materials for barge or larger plane.	Meeting shipments at the airport or port with a truck or other vehicle, and either directly transferring containers such as totes and pallets to a hub-SEA or hub-ANC connection, or picking up shipment and bringing it to local staging area to consolidate like wastes and/or to repackage for particular transportation mode.	Which hubs will require the coordinator to consolidate materials received at the hub? To what extent? An organized listing of Carriers and routes to identify likely needs that will surface would be helpful. E.g. Does the Program need “boots on the ground” to transfer goods from small airport or boat/barge to large airport or large barge	In-kind donations of labor by any agencies or businesses with personnel in the region. Regional entities such as school district offices, hospitals, ANCSA non-profits, Wildlife Refuge offices, etc. might organize volunteers. Carriers might assist in transfer between airports, etc.
Regular contact with all regional villages to ensure knowledge of their circumstances and needs	Devoting a little time each day to communications with villages. Small communities are subject to greatest swings in circumstances.	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
Assist villages in reaching Capacity stage via presenting to Council/ Community, and/ or other means	Serve as support and regional technical expert on the Program ins and outs. May need to conduct site visit to do so.	As mentioned in previous Section, the legal template for Program Entry and Community Agreement is still needed.	Plane companies (charter, agency, or commercial) could donate space on their plane for Program site visits.
Review Village checklist with Villages and verify any submitted documentation	On a regular basis go through by phone, email, or if needed, by site visit, the Checklist with villages to confirm which components are still needed, which need help, which components are met.	<i>None, Checklist is being developed.</i>	<i>None</i>

Table A-1 Regional Coordinator Duties, Needs, and Potential Partner Roles (*Continued*)

Component	What it Involves	Missing Pieces Prior to Implementation	Potential Entity Role(s)
Conduct site assistance visits	Periodically, villages may require on-site assistance for better efficiency at moving forward, or for training purposes.	<i>None</i>	Plane companies (charter, agency, or commercial) could donate space on their plane for Program site visits.
Help to train villages	Either as a 1 on 1 effort, or regional effort that they or a partner organization puts on, the Regional Coordinator will serve as an instructor for at least some components of backhaul, such as packing, labelling, and Program coordination.	<i>None</i>	<i>Same</i>
Meet with other coordinators at least monthly via phone to discuss any common needs assign duties	Trends, patterns, needs, best practices, lessons learned will be shared to make the Program more efficient.	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
Meet with State coordinator as often as needed to relay village and regional-level needs, suggestions for Program	State Coordinator must be apprised of region's circumstances and needs that are not captured on the village tracker.	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
Adapt any training or outreach material to the region's needs.	Any Program materials or protocols that could better suit the regions by modifying format or other aspects should be carried out as long as safety is not risked.	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
Communicate as needed directly with Control Tower/Statewide Logistics Coordinator or shippers or recyclers.	Particularly close to backhaul pickup, the Logistics Coordinator/Control Tower, shippers, or recyclers may need to know last minute updates and need to relay last minute information. It is anticipated the internet will be down some of the time, so fax and phone may serve as communication backup as well.	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
Hold inter-village teleconferences or webinars to address common issues and encourage village to village assistance and ideas.	Efficiencies will be had if the work of training villages is partly left to villages using each other's expertise, so an inter-village network setup is worth the time investment.	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

